Revival of aviation industry

2184. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that most of the international flights from Europe to South East Asia over-fly India because of excessive airport charges and highly priced Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF);

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to revive our sick aviation industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDI): (a) No, Sir. All major European airlines like British Airways, Lufthansa, Air France and KLM etc are operating terminating services to India fully utilizing their entitlements. With long-range aircraft available these days, the international airlines prefer to operate point-to-point services rather than hopping flights *via* intermediate points. This is the reason for European airlines to operate direct flights to India and also to South East Asia overflying India.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Several initiatives like appointment of Naresh Chandra Committee to provide a road-map for the new Civil Aviation Policy; restructuring of two metro airports at Mumbai and Delhi through Joint Venture Route; amendment to the Airports Authority of India Act, 1994 to help financing the proposed new Greenfield airports at Hyderabad and Bangalore; augumentation/replacement of existing fleet; leasing of additional capacity; upgradation of product; cost-control and economy measures; innovative and aggressive marketing schemes etc., have been taken to further improve the health of aviation industry.

Improvement in air services

†2185. DR. AKHTAR HASAN RIZVI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether any steps have been taken to improve air links in Leh in Jammu and Kashmir, Andaman and Nicobar Islands and Lakshadweep;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when, the scheme is likely to be accomplished?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVILAVIATION (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDI): (a) to (c) The following steps have been taken to improve air links in Leh in Jammu and Kashmir, Andaman and Nicobar Islands and Lakshadweep:

(i) In the Winter Schedule effective 26th October, 2003, Indian Airlines' operations on the sector Jammu-Leh-Jammu has been increased to 4 times a week and operation on the sector Leh-Srinagar-Leh have been increased to 2 times a week.

(ii) Alliance Air operates services 5 times a week on the sector Kolkata- Port Blair- Kolkata and 4 times a week on the sector Chennai-Port Blair- Chennai with B-737 aircraft.

Besides, Alliance Air is operating additional services on the Kolkata/ Port Blair/ Kolkata route on Wednesdays and Sundays from 26th October, 2003 to 31st March, 2004, thus providing a daily service between Kolkata and Port Blair, uptil 31st March, 2004. Alliance Air has also planned additional flights on 21st, 22nd, 23rd, 25th, 27th, 28th, 29th and 30th December, 2003 on the sector Kolkata/ Port Blair/ Kolkata.

(iii) Indian Airlines operates 6 flights per week on the sectork Kochi-Agatti- Kochi and 3 flights per week on the sector Agatti-Goa- Agatti with DO228.

(iv) Jet Airways is also operating daily flight on sector Delhi-Leh-Delhi and Chennai-Port Blair-Chennai.

Linking of State capitals with Delhi

†2186. DR. AKHTAR HASAN RIZVI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the State capitals which have not yet been linked with Delhi through air;

(b) by when these are likely to be linked through air;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi